



**Press Release**

**9 December 2016**

**For immediate release**

## **Concern over rushed camping proposals**

### **Mountaineers call on National Park Authority Board to defer introduction of camping byelaws**

Against the background of the Scottish Government arguing in the Supreme Court for the need for proper consultation over Brexit with the Scottish Parliament, mountaineers in Scotland have expressed serious concerns over a lack of proper consultation closer to home.

On Monday 12 December the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Park Authority Board will consider proposals for a permit system and related signage which will facilitate the introduction of restrictive camping byelaws in the national park. The relevant papers are published on the Park Authority's website.

David Gibson, CEO of Mountaineering Scotland said: "The Park Authority is rushing through the introduction of a set of appalling proposals which present a confusing picture to intending campers.

"If the proposals are approved, the lack of on-the-ground clarity about camping management zones and provision could lead to the criminalisation of people who might believe they are camping or resting at night during a journey, which would otherwise be within their rights by complying with the provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Acts and Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

"The proposed permit scheme will also impose costs of £7 per night on people who would otherwise be able to enjoy free access to the outdoors and as such is socially divisive, at a time when the Scottish Government is encouraging more people to get active.

"We still maintain that the Park Authority is resorting to byelaws which are wholly unnecessary as they, with Police Scotland, already had the powers to act against the limited few who cause nuisance and damage. We therefore call on the Park Authority Board to delay the introduction of the byelaws by 12 months to enable appropriate public consultation on the specific proposals for the permit scheme and signage."

**Ends**

**Notes for editors:**

**Image:** An example of a proposed camping management zone sign. The byelaws include campervans, motorhomes and anyone sleeping or resting in a vehicle overnight, yet the sign gives no indication that these users are subject to restrictions. If you are served a notice by a park ranger, you could be committing a criminal offence which attracts a £500 fine.

[http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Camping\\_control\\_sign.png](http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Camping_control_sign.png)

**For further information see Loch Lomond and Trossachs Park Authority board papers:**

[http://parkswatchscotland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Board\\_20161212\\_Agenda5\\_Your-Park-Delivery-Report.pdf](http://parkswatchscotland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Board_20161212_Agenda5_Your-Park-Delivery-Report.pdf)

[http://parkswatchscotland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Board\\_20161212\\_Agenda5\\_Appendix1\\_Camping-in-the-Park-Signage-Examples.pdf](http://parkswatchscotland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Board_20161212_Agenda5_Appendix1_Camping-in-the-Park-Signage-Examples.pdf)

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**About Mountaineering Scotland:**

- Mountaineering Scotland is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains.
- Mountaineering Scotland provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.
- The MCoS is a membership organisation with over 13,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers, funded through a combination of membership subscriptions, non-governmental grants and investment from sportscotland, which supports public initiatives and services in mountain safety, mountain training and the development and promotion of mountaineering activities.
- Mountaineering Scotland also acts for 75,000 members of the BMC or British Mountaineering Council on matters related to Landscape and Access in Scotland.
- Mountaineering Scotland landscape and access work is supported financially by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and the BMC
- Mountaineering Scotland has launched the ClimbScotland initiative to encourage young people to participate in climbing and support their progression. It offers a dedicated website and a development team, which will introduce young people to climbing at schools, climbing walls and via youth organisations with a range of activities and events, while developing kids clubs and providing specialist support to parents, volunteers and teachers.
- Mountaineering Scotland is the national governing body for sports climbing. It offers pathways to climbing coaching, organises and promotes a range of regional and national climbing competitions, and manages the Scottish climbing and bouldering

teams. It contributes to the management of the GB teams with the ultimate aim of seeing a Scottish athlete achieve a podium position in the Olympic Games.

- Mountaineering Scotland is the new name for the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS), which acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering.
- Mountaineering Council of Scotland remains the registered company name.
- The MCofS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.
- Mountaineering Scotland, The Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP